News release

Met Office HQ scoops national awards

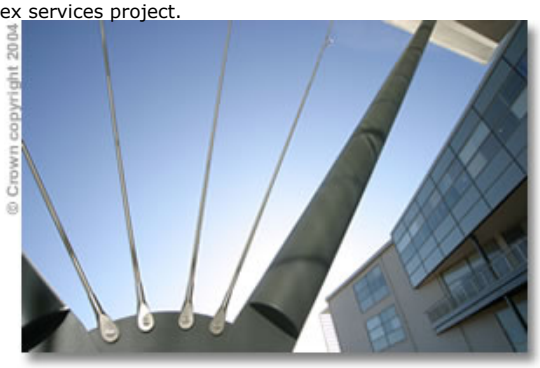
28 June 2004

The new £80m Met Office headquarters in Exeter has won the prestigious Major Project of the Year Award and the Best Office Building of the Year, beating off stiff competition from the Swiss Re Tower ('The Gherkin') among others.

The Building Services Awards, organised by Building Services Journal and the Electrical and Mechanical Contractor, are the building services industry's leading awards and were recently held at The Grosvenor House Hotel in London.

Haden Young and ZBP, the contractor and engineering consultant responsible for the high tech mechanical and electrical engineering systems in the Met Office building, were delighted to receive these awards for their part in the project at the award ceremony. The judges were impressed by the way effective partnering delivered a balance of resilience and environmental friendliness in this complex services project.

For further information contact Haden Young on 01923 295057.



Alan Douglas, Director of Relocation for the Met Office, said, "We are absolutely delighted to learn that our new headquarters has won such fabulous awards. The fine effort in getting us relocated from Bracknell to Exeter on schedule and within budget has paid off in so many ways."

Following the success of the relocation programme, the Met Office has begun offering a consultancy service to businesses and other government departments to help others benefit from its experience. Contact the Met Office Press Office.

Notes:

Major Project of the Year

This is for a contract where the total build value is above £20 million. Haden Young have achieved Runners-Up position several times but have never before won the title. This year, in continuing the spirit in which the Met Office Headquarters was delivered, the award submission was made in partnership with ZBP who were the mechanical & electrical design consultants, sub-contracted to Haden Young on the project. Other entries included the Swiss Re Tower (known as 'The Gherkin'), Defence Logistics HQ and a new Aston Martin manufacturing facility.

Best Office Building of the Year

This is a new category this year.

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